

E. cardinalis lives in the group of Ceram (Ceram, Amboina, and Buru), *E. grandis* in the group of Gilolo, and, last, *E. polychlorus* in the Papuan Islands—from Waigiou to the Solomon Islands, and in the Kei Islands, which, according to my views, we must put with the Papuan Islands rather than with the Moluccas. All this I have already shown in the 3rd part (*Psittaci*) of my “*Prodromus Ornithologiæ Papuasæ et Moluccarum*” (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. x. p. 31), where, owing to an omission of the printer, “Ceram (*Von Rosenberg, Wallace*)” has been left out from the localities inhabited by *E. cardinalis*. The so-called *E. polychlorus*, from Ternate, Gilolo, Batchian, and Morotay, is the male of *E. grandis*. We have an evident proof of this in the fact that the so-called *E. linnæi*, which now we know is the female of *E. polychlorus*, is not to be found in the islands of the Gilolo group, but only in the truly Papuan Islands.

Turin, Zoological Museum, July 25th, 1877.

XLIII.—*Notices of recently published Ornithological Works.*

[Continued from p. 385.]

52. *Salvadori on the Papuan Parrots.*

[*Prodromus ornithologiæ Papuasæ et Moluccarum* auctore Thoma Salvadori. III. *Psittaci*. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genoa, x. p. 21.]

The third part of Salvadori's ‘*Prodromus*’ is devoted to the Parrots—a prominent group in Papua and the Moluccas—no less than 92 species being enumerated in the present list. D’Albertis, Beccari, and Bruijn have transmitted no less than 1363 specimens of this group to Genoa, referable to 69 species.

The following four new species are established :—*Geoffroyus keyensis*, ex inss. Key ; *G. schlegeli* (= *rhodops*, Schl., nec G. R. Gray) ; *Lorius erythrothorax*, ex Nov. Guin. merid.-orient. ; *L. flavo-palliatu*s ex Obi et Batchian : and two new genera, “*Oreopsittacus*” for *Trichoglossus arfaki*, Meyer ; and “*Charmosynopsis*” for *Charmosyna pulchella*, G. R. Gray.

53. *Salvadori on Papuan and Moluccan Nectarinians.*—

[Intorno alle specie di Nettarinie della Papuasìa, delle Molucche e del gruppo di Celebes. Atti d. R. Acc. d. Sc. di Torino, xii. p. 299.]

This paper supplements the author's former memoir on *Hermotimia* (Atti R. Ac. Sc. Torino, x. p. 201), but includes also notices of all the other *Nectariniæ* of Papuasìa, the Moluccas, and Celebes. There are, according to Prof. Salvadori's views, 14 *Hermotimie*, 3 species of *Æthopyga*, 2 of *Cyrtostomus*, and 1 *Anthrothreptus* within these limits.

54. *Salvadori on D'Albertis's Collections of 1872.*

[Catalogo della prima collezione di uccelli fatta nella Nuova Guinea nel 1872 dal Signor L. M. D'Albertis. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genoa, x. p. 111.]

Of the collections made by D'Albertis in New Guinea in 1872 only a portion, principally the novelties, have been yet described, by Sclater in the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings,' and by Salvadori in the 'Annali' of the Museo Civico of Genoa. Salvadori now gives a complete account of these collections, made at various points along the northern coast of New Guinea, and during the celebrated excursion to Mount Arfak, altogether embracing 499 individuals, referable to 180 species. Of these 25 were new to science, 13 of which were described by Sclater, and 12 by Salvadori.

55. *Sharpe's 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum,'* vol. iii.

[Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum, vol. iii. Coliormorphæ, containing the families Corvidæ, Paradiseidæ, Oriolidæ, Dicruridæ, and Prionopidæ. By R. Bowdler Sharpe. 8vo. London: 1877.]

Mr. Sharpe has now entered upon the most difficult portion of his task—the reduction into systematic order and the description of the extensive group of Passeres, or Passeriformes, as he prefers to term it, which contains the great mass of living birds. Since the time of Latham's 'General History' no naturalist has attempted such a work; and it is only one who has the resources of a central position and a great national collection at his back who could undertake it with any chance of success.

The systematic arrangement adopted by Mr. Sharpe appears to be a combination of those of Prof. Garrod, Prof. Sundevall, and Mr. Wallace. The birds treated of in the present volume are the "Coliomorphæ"—a term applied here to the families Corvidæ, Paradiseidæ, Oriolidæ, Dicuridæ, and Prionopidæ. This, it may be remarked, is a very different series from Prof. Sundevall's "Coliomorphæ," which embraces the Icteridæ, Sturnidæ, Corvidæ, and Paradiseidæ of most authors, with some minor groups. The Prionopidæ of Mr. Sharpe we cannot regard as a very natural family, embracing, as it does, such diverse-looking forms as *Grallina*, *Eurocephalus*, *Hypocolius*, and *Euryceros*! But much must depend on whether Mr. Sharpe's new character of the production forwards of the "chin-angle," whereby he separates the Coliomorphæ from the remaining "Turdiformes," will stand the test of lengthened examination.

As regards the nomenclature employed by Mr. Sharpe, we may observe that the Stricklandian code now adopted by most English naturalists is not obeyed in several particulars. It is enacted thereby that "specific names, when adopted as generic, must be changed." But Mr. Sharpe maintains *Corone corone* and *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* directly in the teeth of this wholesome regulation. It is also enacted that "a name glaringly false may be changed." Yet Mr. Sharpe rejects appropriate names in order to call an Oriole of the Philippines *chinensis*, and a Bolivian Crow *chilensis*—the evidence of identification in both these cases being, to say the least of it, very doubtful.

We rejoice to see that in the present volume Mr. Sharpe has somewhat curtailed the length of his descriptions. Short Latin diagnoses would, we think, have been much better in a work of this kind, with a few observations added to show the relation of the species to its nearest allies. The "keys to the species," given under each genus, are very useful in their way, but break down when you come to use them for the determination of specimens, from only one point of difference between allied species being given.

The total number of species recognized by Mr. Sharpe as

belonging to the five families treated of in the present volume is 367, of which 315 are represented (by 2014 specimens) in the British Museum. The new generic terms used are 7 in number—namely, *Heterocorax*, *Rhinocorax*, *Microcorax*, *Macrocorax*, *Pseudorectes*, *Melanorectes*, and *Pinarolestes*. The species described as new are *Strepera intermedia*, *Psilorhinus cyanogenys*, *Phonygama jamesii*, *Oriolus diffusus*, *O. steerii*, *Sphecotheres salvadorii*, *Irena melanochlamys*, *I. criniger*, *I. tweeddalii*, *Rectes tibialis*, *R. aruensis*, *Collyriocincla pallidirostris*, *Bradyornis woodwardi*, and *B. diabolicus*—14 in all, besides several “subspecies.”

In concluding this short notice of a most important work, we cannot but congratulate Mr. Sharpe upon the energy he has displayed in attacking the formidable task of a general descriptive catalogue of birds, and express our sincere hopes that he may be able to bring it to a successful conclusion.

56. *Sharpe's Birds of Kerguelen's Island.*

[Transit-of-Venus Expedition. Zoology.—Birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. 4to, pp. 62, pls. vi.–viii.]

Mr. Sharpe's share of this paper relates chiefly to the nomenclature of the species included in it, and to the labour of getting together all previous information respecting the birds of Kerguelen Island. The Rev. E. A. Eaton, the naturalist attached to the English Transit Expedition to this place, has furnished copious field-notes on the species observed by him, which considerably enhance the interest of the paper. The nesting-habits of many of the birds are also fully described by him; and the memoir gives a very complete account of the ornithology of this island. A good deal of the ground traversed in the papers on the same subject by Drs. Kidder and Coues, and Drs. Cabanis and Reichenow, the former of whom described the ornithology relating to the American, the latter to the German Transit Expedition, is necessarily gone over again. But, besides incorporating the labours of his immediate predecessors, Mr. Sharpe has very properly added an account of all the available materials collected by the Antarctic Expedition to which Sir J. Hooker was attached, as

well as notes on Ellis's drawings, made during Capt. Cook's third voyage*. Cook's visit to Kerguelen Island is related by himself in the first volume of the 'Third Voyage' (chaps. iv. & v.). At the end of chapter v. a good account of the natural history is given by Mr. Anderson, the surgeon of the 'Resolution,' which includes descriptions of the birds of the island. This passage seems to have escaped Mr. Sharpe's notice.

The Procellariidæ, so numerous represented in this island, come in for a large share of attention; and Mr. Sharpe has given important notes on several members of this family. He has carefully examined a large series of specimens of the genus *Prion*, with a view to testing the validity of some of the species for which recognition has been claimed; the result is that he admits only two, *P. vittatus* and *P. desolatus*. Again, *Thalassidroma melanogaster*, Gould, is united (somewhat prematurely, we think) with *T. tropica* of the same author, and the latter name adopted, apparently because the description of it precedes that of the former by a page in the paper where both are described†.

Œstrelata mollis is introduced into the list on the authority of Drs. Cabanis and Reichenow; but the specimen brought home by the 'Gazelle' was really one of *Œ. brevirostris*, and *Œ. mollis* must, for the present, be erased from the list of Kerguelen birds. For this error Mr. Sharpe is not responsible‡.

Mr. Sharpe has also discussed fully the complicated syn-

* Mr. Sharpe (p. 1) speaks of Ellis as having accompanied Sir J. Banks and Capt. Cook; but this is incorrect. Sir J. Banks only accompanied Cook during his *first* voyage, when Parkinson and Buchan were the artists engaged. Kerguelen Island was not then visited—nor yet during the second voyage, when the two Forsters were on board.

† Mr. Sharpe has on several previous occasions introduced changes of nomenclature on similar grounds. In our opinion, however, the practice is a perversion of the law of priority, which means, if it means any thing, priority of publication. When two names are published simultaneously, the question of priority does not arise, and therefore the claims of the one in most frequent use are, we think, too obvious to need asserting.

‡ [During a recent visit to the Berlin Museum, Dr. Reichenow kindly showed me this specimen, when I at once saw that it belonged to *Œ. brevirostris*.—O. S.]

onymy of some of the Penguins; but here space prevents us from following him for the present.

In concluding these remarks, we cannot help thinking that it is well for the indigenous fauna of this island that Transits of Venus are of rare occurrence; for such facts as "the bagging of 2000 *Querquedula eatoni* within a radius of eight miles," and "the conversion of a whole community of Penguins into 'hare soup,' for the officers of one of Her Majesty's vessels," read ominously for the welfare of the birds of Kerguelen Island.

57. *Lawrence on a new Pitangus.*

[Description of a new Species of Bird of the Genus *Pitangus*. By G. N. Lawrence. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. xi. pp. 288-290, Nov. 1876.]

The new species here described is called *P. gabpii*, after its discoverer, the well-known explorer of the Talamanca district of Costa Rica. This bird comes, however, from San Domingo, where Prof. Gabb spent the past winter. It is smaller than either *P. caudifasciatus* of Jamaica, or *P. taylori* of Porto Rico, its nearest allies, and differs in other points from those species. We are glad to note that Prof. Gabb purposes to spend another winter in San Domingo, and trust he will not fail to turn his attention to its avifauna, our knowledge of which, as the discovery of the present species shows, is by no means complete.

58. *Rowley's 'Ornithological Miscellany.'*

[Ornithological Miscellany. Edited by George Dawson Rowley, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S., Member of the British Ornithologists' Union. Part ix. London: 1877, Trübner and Co.]

In the present number Mr. Rowley gives us his usual varied menu. The first article treats of certain members of the genus *Ptilopus*, such as are especially related to the curious *P. insolitus*, Schl., which Drs. Cabanis and Reichenow have recently elevated to a genus, *Ædirhinus*. Sclater's notes on it in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society, 1877, are reprinted, as well as Schlegel's original remarks. Dr. Meyer, too, communicates observations on the same subject. To these are added extracts from W. Marshall's work relating to the bony

protuberances of the skull of certain birds. *Æ. insolitus* was figured in part viii. *Ptilopus jobiensis* is now depicted as the nearest ally of the former species.

The second article is on "Bird-nets," in treating of which Mr. Rowley reproduces some of the engravings in Willughby's 'Ornithology.' Interesting sketches represent bird-netting as practised at the present time on the shores of the Wash. Mr. Rowley gives many details on this subject. Next we have an article on a recent addition to the genus *Loriculus*, by Mr. Sclater, accompanied by a plate, whereon *L. aurantiifrons* and *L. tener* are represented—the latter being a new species lately described in the 'Proceedings,' from Duke-of-York Island. Finally, we have a further instalment of the translation of Col. Prejevalsky's work on the birds of Mongolia, to which we have before alluded (*antea*, p. 378). A plate of *Grus nigricollis* is now given, copied from the original work.

59. *E. P. Ramsay's Papers in the 'Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales.'*

We have just received from Mr. Ramsay some papers extracted from the 'Proceedings' of the above Society for the current year. Those relating to birds are as follows:—

(1) "On a new Species of *Platycercus* from the interior of New South Wales." This species is described as *P. mastersianus*.

(2) "Description of a new Species of *Gerygone*," called *G. flavida*. Specimens were obtained by Mr. Ramsay himself in the dense scrub of Herbert river in 1874. Its nearest ally is *G. albogularis*.

(3) "Some further remarks on *Poëphila gouldæ* and *P. mirabilis*. The question of the distinctness or identity of these two supposed species is here further discussed; but Mr. Ramsay hesitates which view to adopt.

(4) "Description of some new Species of Birds from New Britain, New Ireland, Duke-of-York Island, and the South-east coast of New Guinea." Here *Nasiterna pusilla* is described as a new species from "the dense forests in the neigh-

bourhood of Port Moresby, New Guinea." *Ninox novæ-britanniæ*, sp. n., from New Britain, probably = *N. odiosa*, *Scl. P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 108. *Myzomela coccinea* and *M. erythina* are two new species, the former from Duke-of-York Island, the latter from New Ireland.

(5) "Description of some rare Eggs of Australian Birds, and a Note on the Eggs of certain Species of *Megapodius*." The eggs of the following species are described:—*Ælurædus smithi*, *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*, *Elanus axillaris*, *Pardalotus rubricatus* and *P. uropygialis*, *Entomophila rufigularis*, and *Poëphila atropygialis*, Diggles. The egg of *Megapodius cuvieri* is also described, and its measurements compared with those of several other species.

60. Wharton's 'List of British Birds.'

[A List of British Birds, the Genera arranged according to Sundevall's Method. The Nomenclature revised by Henry Thornton Wharton, M.A., M.R.C.S., F.Z.S. 12mo, pp. 20. London: 1877, J. Van Voorst.]

A useful list of British birds, in a handy form, which can be either used as a check-list, or cut up for labels. In the introduction are remarks on the uses of this list, on the limits of the British avifauna, on nomenclature, and on classification. Under the head of nomenclature the rules of the British Association are given, but without the comments on them originally printed. The classification adopted is that of the late Prof. Sundevall. Though we are by no means sorry to see the stereotyped arrangement of British lists broken through, we do not think that Sundevall's system can be accepted in its entirety, as, owing to the admission of external characters alone into his classification, incongruities occur in it (such as the Hoopoe being placed in the Oscines next to the Larks) which have little chance of ultimate acceptance. Without in any way detracting from the value of the 'Methodi naturalis Avium disponendarum Tentamen,' we are of opinion that the arrangement there adopted has not been so widely accepted as Mr. Wharton supposes. Classification has never been a very strong point with ornithologists who confine themselves to the study of British birds. Placed side by side

with older lists, Mr. Wharton's will not fail, we trust, to provide food for useful reflection on this important subject.

61. *Marshall's 'Birds'-nesting in India.'*

[Birds'-Nesting in India. A Calendar of the Breeding-seasons, and a Popular Guide to the Habits and Haunts of Birds. Illustrated. By Capt. G. F. L. Marshall, R.E., F.Z.S. &c. Crown 8vo, pp. 184. Calcutta: 1877.]

For publishing this useful and well-arranged volume all bird's-nesters in India will, we are sure, thank Capt. Marshall. In it the time of breeding, the shape and position of the nest, the range during the nesting-season of a large number of the birds of India, and other details are given in a concise yet clear manner. To afford still further information, a calendar is added recording the doings of birds as regards their breeding during every month of the year. To those accustomed to search for bird's-nests in more temperate countries the uncertainty of the nesting-time of tropical species is very perplexing. The comparative completeness of Capt. Marshall's list shows how industriously and successfully the many ardent ornithologists who have of late years explored India have pursued their favourite study. Still there are gaps to fill up, and points yet to be made out, before the subject is complete; and we trust that egg-collectors in India will freely respond to Capt. Marshall's request to be supplied with fresh notes and information to be incorporated in a future edition.

62. *M'Cauley's 'Birds of the Red River of Texas.'*

[Notes on the Ornithology of the Region about the Source of the Red River of Texas, from Observations made during the Exploration conducted by Lieut. E. H. Ruffner, Corps of Engineers, U.S. A. By C. A. H. M'Cauley, Lieut. 3rd U.S. Artillery. Annotated by Dr. Elliott Coues, U.S. A. Extracted from the Bulletin of the Survey, vol. iii. no. 3. 8vo, pp. 655-695. Washington: 1877.]

This paper is issued as part of the Bulletin of Dr. Hayden's Survey, and relates to the ornithology of the little-known district of Texas called the Llano Estacado or Staked Plain, a desolate treeless waste, "flat beyond comparison," situated at an elevation of 4000 feet above the sea-level.

The species mentioned are not numerous, nor are there any amongst them calling for special comment; but the list helps to swell the knowledge of the distribution of North-American birds, a subject which has been so thoroughly worked up of late years by our American brethren.

63. *Lieut. Wheeler's Reports upon Surveys west of the 100th Meridian.*

[Report upon Geographical and Geological Explorations and Surveys West of the One Hundredth Meridian, in charge of First Lieut. George M. Wheeler, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. Vol. v. Zoology. 4to. Washington: 1875. And

Annual Report upon the Geographical Surveys West of the One Hundredth Meridian, in California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, and Montana, by George M. Wheeler, First Lieut. of Engineers, U.S. Army; being Appendix JJ of the Annual Report of the Chief Engineers for 1876. 8vo. Washington: 1876.]

In the first of these volumes the ornithological results of Lieut. Wheeler's Survey are incorporated up to the end of the collecting-season of 1874. The second treats of the observations and collections made during 1875. Both are by Mr. W. H. Henshaw, who has proved himself to be an accurate observer as well as a diligent collector. One of the results of the exploration of the southern districts of the United States bordering upon Mexico has been the discovery that several species, hitherto only known as inhabitants of the Mexican highlands, have a much more extensive northern range. Mr. Henshaw's labours have demonstrated this; and his notes on these and other better-known species form the most important part of the volumes before us. Amongst the newly annexed birds is *Dendraeca olivacea*, originally described as a Texan species by the late Mr. Giraud, but lately believed to be solely of more southern origin, being common in the highlands of Mexico and Guatemala. For this bird a new generic name, *Peucedramus*, is proposed by Dr. Coues, as it differs in some respects from typical *Dendraeca*. The quarto work is illustrated by fifteen chromolithographs from Mr. Ridgway's pencil. Though the ornithological portion of these volumes alone demands the present notice, it by no means

occupies more than its share with other zoological matter. Nearly every branch of Zoology is treated of; and the work shows with what praiseworthy energy the scientific departments of these surveys have been, and are, supported by the United-States Government.

64. *Finsch's Collections from Siberia.*

[West-sibirische Forschungsreise 1876 unter Führung von Dr. O. Finsch. Catalog der Ausstellung ethnographischer und naturwissenschaftlicher Sammlungen. Mit erläuternden Bemerkungen von Dr. O. Finsch. 8vo, pp. 42. Bremen: 1877.]

This catalogue is issued by the Geographical Society of Bremen, and contains a list of the specimens of various kinds obtained by the expedition sent during last year to Western Siberia under the direction of our well-known Foreign Member, Dr. Finsch. In the earlier part of this volume (pp. 48–66) will be found ornithological letters, addresssd to us by Dr. Finsch from various points of the route taken. In the present catalogue lists of the characteristic birds of the different districts visited are given, divided as follows—the characteristic birds of the steppes, of the steppe-lakes, of the high mountains, of the valley of the Ob, and of the “tundra” region. A more complete account of the collection is, we believe, being drawn up.

65. *Oustalet on new Species of Ibis.*

[“Sur une nouvelle espèce d'Ibis (*Ibis gigantea*),” and “Description d'une nouvelle espèce d'Ibis (*Ibis harmandi*).” Bull. Soc. Philomathique, 7^{me} série, i. pp. 25–30. Paris: Jan. 1877.]

The first of these birds, indeed a giant amongst its kindred, is described from a specimen in the Paris Museum, which was obtained by Mons. Harmand on the banks of the Mékong river, in Cambodia. M. Oustalet compares it with *Ibis papillosa*, which, however, it largely exceeds in dimensions, in this respect approaching the size of *Tantalus*. The second species appears to have been long represented in the gallery of the Paris Museum by a specimen obtained in 1862 by M. Bocourt in the kingdom of Siam. Additional speci-

mens, procured by M. Harmand, enabled M. Oustalet to distinguish the species from *Ibis papillosa*. These differences are pointed out, and the species referred to the genus *Geronticus* under the name *G. harmandi*. Figures of these apparently fine novelties would be very acceptable.

XLIV.—Letters, Announcements, &c.

The following letters, addressed “To the Editors of ‘The Ibis,’” have been received:—

SIRS,—Permit me, in the cause of scientific exactness, to remark that the artist has coloured the crissum of *Ægithina viridissima* ♂ (*anteà*, pl. v.) green instead of bright yellow, and that he has made the subdued brown marks on the under surface of the rectrices of *Prinia rafflesi* (*anteà*, pl. vi. f. 1) terminal instead of subterminal.

Yours, &c.,

TWEEDDALE.

Chislehurst, July 7, 1877.

SIRS,—In the April number of ‘Stray Feathers’ for this year (p. 57, note), Mr. Hume remarks that *Horeites sericea*, Walden (Blyth, B. Burma, no. 392), from the Karen hills, is uncommonly close to *Phylloscopus pallidipes*, Blanford (J. A. S. B. 1872, pt. ii. p. 162, t. vii. f. 1). Since describing *H. sericea* I have been able to compare it with Sikhim examples, marked *P. pallidipes*, Blanf.; and I find that the two birds are identical. The widely erroneous generic position assigned to his species by Mr. Blanford is my only excuse for being guilty of the offence of bestowing a fresh title on a previously described and admittedly good species. Mr. Hume also observes (*t. c.* p. 60) that *Alcippe magnirostris*, Walden, from the Karen hills (*t. c.* no. 369) is *A. phayrei*, Blyth (J. A. S. B. 1845, p. 601). Mr. Blyth may have been in error when he identified (B. Burma, no. 368) *A. phayrei* with *A. nipalensis*; but I am unable for the moment to decide